

this was phenomenal platters of bacon, of eggs, of cereals and juices for breakfast; the same throughout all meals! The outdoor fish fry will long be remembered with all the hush-puppies, corn bread, corn on the cob, etc, etc, Holy Cats! And a picnic & outdoor dancing at Natural Bridge, one of natures beautiful wonder spots. A visit to a tobacco curing barn and a "Pie Supper"were other thrills.

A Pie Supper is a type of get-to-gether when the girls bake fancy pies and the highest male bidders get that pie and the girl who baked it. Dancing folliows, that peculiar "Mountain Squares", which are not squares but a large circle of couples danced in a style which is impossible to imitate. The men do a peculiiar low clog, while the women do a running sprint. One couple makes the rounds dancing with each couple at a time, then comes a local type of "swing" & unusual Grand-Right-and-Left, then the next couple takes over, etc. Such a square is finished, a new square will begin with a new figure. The music was compos- ed of a fiddle, guitar and banjo producing no melody but a constant hypnotic drone. The rhythm of the feet was strong and practically melodic. I was very much enchanted by it all.

All the young people appear to be very good looking, beautiful girls and handsome men, well behaving and re- tiring. The main crop around there is Tobacco corn. Nothing else seems to be planted. The staple food is corn in any form and guise.

We went down to Lexington, some hundred miles west of Hazel Green, through roads as the snake crawls after having some of Archie's Mountain Dew. Lexington is the center of the Blue Grass country, horse racing and breeding, and tobacco. Dr. Karsner of the U. of Ky., took us around to some of the famous stables including to the former home and present grave of Man 'O War — quite an elaborate grave. We also saw some of his decendants, all good looking horses.

The Wilderness Road

One Saturday afternoon we arrived to Borea where the world renowned Borea Mountain School is located. That evening we saw the play "Wilderness Road" presented in a gorgeous out-door amphitheatre. The play was well pres- ented. There were three stages and change of scene was acomplished by throwing flood lights from one stage to another. It was effective and impressive. The play itself, written by a well known playwright, did not thrill most Southerners. The historic part was greatly slanted in favor of the Yankees. It had Southerners say exactly what Yankees always wanted them to say. It was a pathetic attempt for apologia. But why? The South owed no apolo- gies. Of course, the American history books never carry the Dixie version of the War Between the States. No one ever reads about the great devastation, plunder, the de- struction of houses of learning that took place there. That Dixie was bled white by the shameful carpetbaggers under Presidents Johnson and Grant. That Dixie was to have been kept economically and educationally inferior and depend- ent onthe North. Nazi Germany and all other contries have received by far greater consideration, help for reconstruc- tion and brotherly love than the South. This behavior ex- isted practically until the F. D. Roosevelt administration who was the first one to alleviate the conditions in the South. What ever evil existed and still exists in the South in forms of Jim-Crow, prejudices and Mississippi miscar- riage of justice (and that is evil), is thanks only to the Yanks of the so-called "Reconstruction (destruction)" period. For evil breeds more evil.

It was, indeed, amazing to see Southerners sit through the portrait of the coquered Dixie flag thrown with such realistic and vehement hatred that one wondered whether those kids there were actually Southerners. Perhaps they

were all of the 10% of Yankees, for all spoke a pure Yankee Jabber. The people of Kentucky do not speak that way now and they certainly didn't speak that way in 1856. What the play did succeed in showing was that Yankees can cow Southerners, and the Southerners were sure cowed as they sat with their blood seething. It would have been better had the dead been left resting in their graves instead of parading them on the stage.

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Nearly 200 campers attended the Buffalo Camp at the "YWCA Forty Acres" on Lake Erie. A part of the crowd is seen gathered around the corn roast to sing to Art Schra- der's leading. Singing in Eastern Camps is indispensable and an integral part of camp life, unlike on the West coast where even persuasive talk will not always get a handful of people for a sincere sing-song. Art Schrader, besides his talent for singing and wide repertoire, is also a capable folk dance leader in the Buffalo area. (Foto David Arikado)

Buffalo, Toronto, Rochester, Cleveland

I came to my Buffalo Camp after a trip in a car, a bus, three train changes and again a car. It was another most enjoyable camp on the Shores of Lake Erie. The attendance was very large, mostly young people. Roger Knox, of Itha- ca, N. Y., was the other instructor who taught contras and squares. Art schrader with his guitar led the singing.

In Buffalo (Tonawanda) I stayed at the home of my good pals, Frank and Jane Giori who took me down to the Madeen Cherry Hill Farm, North of Toronto where another well attended session was held and I saw again many old time friends.

Some seven years ago, I and my Lithuanian group Ateitis, were invited to Toronto for a Week's appearance at the Fine Arts Galleries for the first Canadian folk festi- val. We were the only American group to be invited. At that time, John (R. I. P.) and Betty Madesn invited us over, and to commemorate the event they planted a catalpa sapling. Now, it grew into a lovely tree. The Cherry Hill Farm, one of John's Dreams, whose completion he did not live to see, is an interesting spot, about which we hope someday to write in VILTIS. In Toronto itself I taught Ivy Krehm's University Settlement group. After three days in Toronto, and visiting the annual fair and museum, I left for Buffalo and Rochester to teach a group conducted by my ex-student Lew Mahoney. And from there, on to Cleve- land. Each place was well attended and in each place was a pleasure to teach. More Anon.

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CHICAGO'S 6TH INT. SQUARE FESTIVAL

Nov. 5th is the date for Chicago's 6th International Square Dance Festival. The huge International Amphi- theatre at 42nd and Halsted (Stock Yards) will be the location where 15,000 dancers are expected to converge. A pre-festival party will take place on Friday with some 60 guest callers for square dancing. The folk dancers will also hold their regular monthly folk dance on that evening preceded by kolo hours which will be lead by the Fawkses. Ray Williams will MC this affair.

On Saturday there will be four halls running simulta- neously. The main arena and the Anex will have squares. The upper halls were set aside for folk dancing and round dancing. All dance sessions will start at 9 A.M. and last until 10 P.M. The featured callers will be Joe Lewis. Manning Smith, Rickey Holden, Butch Nelson, Al Brundage, Ed Gilmore and others. Demonstrations will be held in the main Arena from 7 to 10 P.M. and a Grand Jamboree from 10 until midnight. Round dance leaders will be Lucyan Ziemba, Manning Smith, Paul Kermiet, A. Erwin, Mar- guerite Clapp and others. The Round dancers will start at 10 A.M. and terminate at 7 P.M.

The featured folk dance leader will be Madelynne Greene of San Francisco. Paul Kermiet of Denver and Mary Gillette of Cincinnati volunteered to assist. There will be "clinic" sessions at 9 AM and dancing from 10 to 10. The folk dance committee consist of the following persons: Helen Pomerance, P. Baer, Dave Baer and Emily Mucha, Bernie Kosnick and Walter Meier. Teaching hours will be conducted by the Dunsings, Madelynne Greene, Walter Mankawich, Helen Pomerance and Dave Baer, The Ehrlichs, Emily Mucha, The Buskeys and Walter Meier.

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10,000 SQUARE DANCERS HOLD CONVENTION

On a recent Saturday night, television set owners throughout the United States saw a spectacle new to tele- vision audiences — thousands of dancing couples. They were part of the estimated 10,000 square dancers who had come from all over the country to Oklahoma City, Oklaho- ma, for the three-day Fourth Annual Square Dance Con- vention.

Unlike most other large conventions which usually have some serious business to transact, the annual square dance convention offered its "delegates" only the fun of dancing, exchanging ideas about dancing, and meeting old friends from distant cities and making new ones. At Okla- homa City the throngs literally "danced around the clock."

In the city's huge municipal auditorium dancing began at 9 o'clock on a Thursday morning and continued through- out the day until 11:30 at night. At the close of the formal program, many of the visitors went to the state fairgrounds for food and more square dancing. After two more days like this, the convention ended on a Saturday night.

None of the dancers, of course, danced all the time, but as couples dropped out for rest and relaxation, others took their places to complete the necessary four couples to a set.

The square dance, while often thought of as purely a cowboy or western U. S. range dance, actually has its origin in European court dances. These were embellished and expanded by dancers in the northeastern states — in New England — and by the Kentucky mounteneers in the southeastern states who made them their own folk dances. As America expanded westward during the nineteenth cen- tury the frontiersmen and cattlemen added their own varia- tions. Their dances, with further changing about of the eight dancers that constitute the fun of the square dance — that and the singsong chant of the "caller" who directs the movements of all the dancers.

The 10,000 dancers who met in Oklahoma city returned to their own cities and towns to show their friends the new dances they had learned and to plan for next year's Fifth Annual Square Dance Convention. (C. C.)

FINNISH FESTIVAL IN TORONTO, CANADA

On July 29-30 the Finnish-Canadian Song and Sports Festival was held in Toronto. Folk dance contests were held during the afternoon. For the third consecutive year the "SISU" Club of Toronto won the trophy. Second place went to "SAMPO" of Sudbury, Ont., third to "REVONTU- LET" (Northern Lights) of Timins, Ont.

On Saturday evening a dance was held at the Finnish Social Hall on Huron St. It was interesting to see these "mad" Finns waltz, polka and schottische. It was a wonder the floor did not cave in, for they really put their heart and "sole" into it. They sure enjoyed themselves.

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K OF L CONVENTION MAJOR EVENT

The Annual Convention of the Knights Of Lithuania, held during the Labor Day week-end in Newark, N. J. drew large crowds and many notables. Among those present was Governor Mayner of N. J., Mayor Corlin of Newark, the Archbishop McCarthy, Congressman Kersten and a few Congressmen from New Jersey. The convention dance drew 900 guests.

ESTONIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

The West Coast Estonian held their "Esti Vanad Kos- jad" Estonian Folk Festival during September 2-4 at the Embassy Auditorium in Los Angeles. On Saturday (Sept. 3) was the concert part of the festival during which time Ludvig Juht on his contrabass; Hubert Aumere, violinist and vocalist Andrei Christiansen rendered Estonian com- positions, folk songs and Operatic arias. Well trained Estonian dance groups from Washington, Oregon, San Francisco and Los Angeles, under the over-all direction of Mr. R. Aru, presented eight folk dances.

On Sunday evening was The Folk Festival. A play based on Estonian customs and containing many folk songs and dances was presented. It was a most delightful spectacle and it is regretted that the Los Angeles folk dancers were not informed, for they missed a truly lovely event. Sports and games by various Estonian teams were played during Sunday.

34TH ANNUAL MACEDONIAN CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, was the site for the 34th Annual con- vention of the Macedonian Political Organization (MPO), during the Labor Day week-end. It preceded with pre-pre, pre-conventions, post, grand and gala dances and meetings in between the dances. Al Kaszuba of Buffalo, reports:

"The dances were part of the convention. Bob Nikoloff and his Macedonian orchestra were playing. Idam Ne Idam, Gaida, Daichevo (not the way it's done in California), Ku- kenjes, and many, many fast Syrtos were done during the course of the evening. Gaida seems to be one of the favor- ites among the Macedonians, and one of the simplest. The leader for this Hora was a real "ham", using many different steps and always reverting to his favorite one. Leaders always get a chance to show off their versatility. Since were many hundreds of people there were many lines with many leaders. Bob Nikoloff and his orchestra, are also ver- satile musicians, for they play for many other nationalities their folk dances: Romanians, Poles. I heard their polkas at a Polish wedding and they were very good. My only regret was that I was unable to be there for the whole affair."

DIRECTORY FOR INSTRUCTION GROUPS

Mr. P. Schwartz, editor of the National Directory Of Instruction Groups, asked to inform all readers that the 1956 Directory is now being compiled. All groups and classes may obtain free listing by sending in the name, address, day, hour of session and fee. Write to: FOLK DANCE GUILD, Box 342, Cooper Sta., New York 3, N. Y.

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